

Message Text

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ORIGIN H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 DODE-00 NSCE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CY, TU, PEPR

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS ON EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
PROGRAM

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, WORKING IN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS
WITH DOD AND THE NSC, BEGAN DETAILED INDIVIDUAL BRIEFINGS
ON APRIL 3 FOR KEY MEMBERS OF HOUSE AND SENATE ON US
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PROGRAM FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. FIRST DAY OF
BRIEFINGS CONCENTRATED ON REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC
LEADERS.

2. KEY ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTERS, SUCH AS ZABLOCKI,
HAMILTON AND MUSKIE, EMPHASIZED THAT GREEK INTEREST GROUP
WOULD MOUNT MAJOR OPPOSITION EFFORT AND THAT TOUGH FIGHT

ON BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE FLOORS MUST BE ANTICIPATED.
ZABLOCKI URGED THAT ADMINISTRATION MAKE CLEAR IT IS
STRONG AND UNITED IN ITS SUPPORT OF 1979 PROGRAM FOR GREECE,
TURKEY AND CYPRUS. IN THIS CONNECTION SECRETARY AND
DEPUTY SECRETARY, ALONG WITH TOP DOD AND AID WITNESSES, WILL
APPEAR AT APRIL 6 HEARINGS WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 10:00 AM
WASHINGTON TIME BEFORE FULL HIRC MEETING WHICH ZABLOCKI
WILL CHAIR.

3. REPUBLICAN LEADERS TO WHOM WE SPOKE -- BAKER,
GRIFFIN, RHODES -- EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF NEED FOR
ACTION PROGRAM IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN BUT WERE GENERALLY
NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT EFFORT.
SENATOR BAKER SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT
THE ISSUE AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WAS VERY
DIFFICULT TO MOVE THIS KIND OF LEGISLATION THROUGH THE
CONGRESS IN AN ELECTION YEAR. CONGRESSMAN RHODES SAID
HE WOULD FOR THE TIME BEING REMAIN NEUTRAL ON THE
ADMINISTRATION PACKAGE. GRIFFIN, BAKER AND RHODES ALL
SUPPORTED EFFORT TO LIFT TURKISH EMBARGO IN 1975 AND THEIR
HESITANCY TO BACK ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM NOW COULD
CONSTITUTE DIFFICULT HURDLE IN MOVING OUR PROGRAM THROUGH
THE CONGRESS. VOTES OF GRIFFIN AND BAKER, FOR EXAMPLE,
WILL BE CRITICAL IN SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE PERIODIC UPDATE ON CONGRESS-
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IONAL ATTITUDES AS REFLECTED IN CONTINUING CONSULTATION
PROCESS. VANCE

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